

Confirmed HPAI in Dead Vultures (Charleston County)



A recent mass die-off of wild vultures in Charleston County included some birds that tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which can cause illness in people.

DHEC urges community members to take the following steps:

- Avoid contact with dead or sick vultures, other birds and wild animals
- Keep pets and tame animals away from dead or sick vultures, other birds and wild animals.
- Avoid areas where dead birds have been found.

Risk

While the risk of HPAI transmission to people or tame animals is thought to be low, the risk is also not well known and is best avoided by not having contact with dead birds.

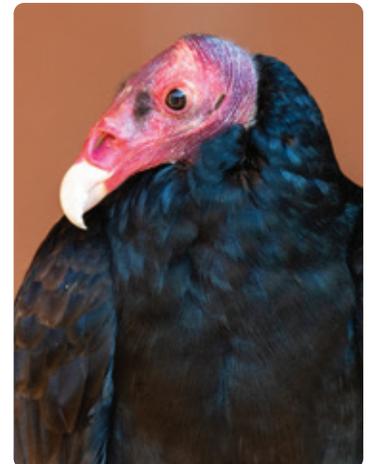
How it is spread

The virus can be spread through feathers and fecal material, or items or areas contaminated by infected birds.

Don't touch

Handling dead birds without recommended protective measures increases the risk of transmission. SCDNR will continue monitoring and surveillance and encourages members of the public to report unusual bird mortality events.

If you come into contact with a dead vulture or other dead bird from this area



- **Seek medical attention** if you become ill with symptoms of fevers, cough, fatigue, body aches, etc.
- **Report your potential exposure** to your health care provider and local health department
- **Monitor symptoms for 10 days** after the last exposure to a bird with HPAI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

- cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/wildlife.html
- cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0428-avian-flu.html
- cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/spotlights/2021-2022/h5n1-low-risk-public.htm
- cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-flu-faq.htm